Rs15m cash and gold stolen from Hyderabad shops

HYDERABAD: Cash and gold coins worth Rs15 million were stolen from three paint shops in the Haji Chowk area in a burglary on late Tuesday night, officials said.

When shop owners arrived at their shops on Wednesday morning, they found the locks had been broken open, they added.

The shopkeepers and traders shuttered their shops in protest.

Former MPA and patron of Anjuman Tajiran Saddar Bazar, Nadeem Siddiqui, and General Secretary Zarar Ahmed, shared details with the SSP.

Mr Ahmed said that many shopkeepers had kept payments in their shops because these were to be deposited in banks on Wednesday.

He claimed that around Rs185,000 had been stolen from his own shop.

Ghulam Hussain Rajput, owner of a looted paint shop, claimed that Rs10 million in cash, gold coins and other valuables had been stolen from his shop.

He said the police were investigating the matter.

Meanwhile, five people sustained burn injuries in a blast at the colony of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro on Wednesday evening, officials said.

The exact cause of the blast remains unknown, they added. The injured were identified as Asif Masih, his mother Zareena Masih, Anna Masih, Alisha and Ambreen.

Two of them were being transferred to the city branch of Liaquat University Hospital.

The incident caused panic in the colony. —Correspondent

Protest against 'illegal' demolition of houses continues

MIRPURKHAS: Dozens of women of the Lashari community along with children staged a protest demonstration on Wednesday, the third consecutive day of the protest, near the press club on Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas road against "illegal" demolition of their houses and arrest of "innocent" residents for interrogation.

Various activists and workers of social welfare organisations also joined the protest sit-in. The protesters raised slogans against local authorities.

They called for justice and demanded that they be provided with immediate compensation and plots for construction of their houses. The protesters also called for releasing their "innocent" relatives from "illegal captivity".

The leaders of the protest, Maulana Hafizur Rehman and Shahzada Malik, on this occasion, said that houses of the Lashari community were demolished illegally and their shelters were snatched without any notice.

They claimed that the district administration took the illegal action and failed to resolve their land dispute with a landlord.

The protesters condemned the district administration and demanded the chief minister to take immediate notice and order an impartial inquiry into the matter.

It may be recalled that some days ago landlord Advocate Chaudhary Shahzad Jatt was gunned down by unknown men after an altercation over the land dispute with some members of the Lashari community.

A murder FIR was lodged with the Satellite Town police station in which nine accused were nominated. The police had detained two suspects while raids at different places were made to arrest the others.

Authorities told *Dawn* that it was a 30-year-old dispute between Chaudhary Shahzad Jatt and the Lashari community, who allegedly occupied his land and built illegal houses there.

Tension had gripped the village after the murder of Shahzad Jatt.—Correspondent

HYDERABAD: A motorcyclist wade through the flooded main Railway Station Road. Several Sindh cities received light-to-moderate showers on Wednesday. The Met Office data showed that Rohri recorded the highest rainfall at 32mm, followed by Sukkur 24mm, Hyderabad 19mm, 11mm in Tando Jam, 10mm in Mohenjo-Daro, 8mm in Khairpur, 6mm in Larkana, 5mm in Jacobabad, 4mm in Mirpurkhas and 3mm in Dadu and Padidan.—Umair Ali

SAC rejects any constitutional tweak to create new provinces

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Declaring Pakistan a federation of equal national units, the Sindh Action Committee (SAC) on Wednesday strongly rejected any constitutional amendments aimed at creating new provinces, terming such moves a direct "threat to federalism, provincial autonomy and democratic rights".

These views were expressed in a joint declaration issued at the conclusion of the Sindh National Conference (SNC), held at the Karachi Press Club, which also called for the withdrawal of controversial constitutional amendments, an end to political repression, and immediate measures to address Sindh's water, governance and environmental challenges.

The conference also deliberated on the country's ongoing social, economic and political challenges.

Presided over by Syed Zain Shah, President of the Sindh United Party (SUP) and Convener of the SAC, the conference was attended by a wide range of political leaders, activists and intellectuals, including Qazi Imdad, Haleem Adil Sheikh, Riaz Ali Chandio, former Sindh governor Muhammad Zubair, Bakshal Thalho and others.

Speakers emphasised that Pakistan is a multinational state comprising Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab as equal national units.

They unanimously rejected any proposal to create new provinces by altering existing federating units through constitutional amendments, calling such moves contrary to the federal spirit of the country.

According to the declaration, the participants strongly opposed the 27th Constitutional Amendment, terming it an "attack on sovereignty, freedom of expression, parliamentary supremacy, judicial independence and ownership of resources".

The meeting demanded the immediate withdrawal of these amendments, the lifting of restrictions on political activities, an end to enforced disappearances, and the release of all political prisoners.

The leaders also called for the withdrawal of what they described as "false and politically motivated cases" and FIRs against Zain Shah, Riaz Chandio, Niaz Kalani and other political workers.

Stressing the importance of constitutional guarantees, the gathering demanded strict implementation of the 1991 Water Accord for the distribution of Indus River waters.

It rejected the construction of new canals and dams and any development projects that could adversely affect Sindh's water share. The protection of the Indus Delta was declared both a national and an international responsibility.

Restoration of student unions demanded

On education, the symposium demanded the immediate restoration of student unions in educational institutions across Sindh.

It also opposed what it termed the "auctioning of Sindh's lands under the guise of corporate farming", calling for an end to the practice and the return of such lands to local communities.

The participants highlighted law and order issues in northern Sindh, demanding an end to tribal conflicts, the arrest of criminals and the abolition of the feudal system.

They also called for an end to political interference in the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) and demanded accountability for corruption.

The speakers held the Pakistan Peoples Party-led provincial government responsible for poverty, corruption and poor governance in the province.

Focusing on Karachi, they declared the city the heart of Sindh and Pakistan's economic hub.

However, they noted that "decades of administrative neglect, institutional decay, corruption and flawed planning" have pushed Karachi into crisis.

Severe shortages of water, sewage facilities, transport, roads, waste management, housing and other basic services have turned the metropolis into what speakers described as a humanitarian challenge.

SMBBMU relieves over 19 faculty members from additional administrative duties

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: In compliance with orders of the Sindh High Court, the Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC) has written to the vice chancellors (VCs) of all public universities in the province, directing that all PhD holders and faculty members performing duties on additional charge, look-after charge or on an own pay scale (OPS) basis on administrative posts be relieved within one week and compliance reports be submitted.

Assistant Director (Legal) of the Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC)in the light of a High Court order passed on December 9, 2025, had written to the VCs of public universities across the province, seeking compliance with the directives.

Sources on Wednesday said Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU) Registrar Dr Fahad Ali Jibran Siyal issued two notifications on December 24 in pursuance of the SHEC's letter and on the directions of the VCs. The notifications directed the concerned officers to be relieved of their additional charges.

As a result, more than 19 professors, associate professors, assistant professors, doctors and lecturers, who had been holding administrative posts for several years at SMBBMU, Larkana, have been relieved of their additional responsibilities, the sources added.

The relieved officers were serving as additional registrar, director admissions, controller and additional controller of examinations, inspector of colleges, director ORIC, director students' affairs, deputy director postgraduate studies, director and assistant director sports, hostel provosts, transport in-charge, estate officer, and other positions.

These faculty members belong to SMBBMU, Chandka Medical College, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Dental College and Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Medical College.

According to office orders issued under the signature of Registrar Dr Siyal, Prof Dr Riaz Ahmed Sheikh of the Department of Pharmacology, who had been holding additional charge as director admissions, has been relieved, and the additional charge has been assigned to Jibran Zafar Pirzada, Director Human Resources.

Other relieved officers include Prof Koro Mal (additional controller examinations), Prof Dr Sirajuddin Soomro (additional director postgraduate studies), Prof Dr Dayal Das (additional inspector of colleges), Associate Prof Waseem Abbas (additional registrar), Associate Prof Mir Hassan Khoso (additional director ORIC), Associate Prof Dr Fauzia Sheikh (additional director students' affairs), Associate Prof Dr Shah Jahan Siyal (additional controller examinations), Associate Prof Dr Lubna Adnan (deputy director postgraduate studies), Assistant Prof Dr Bilawal Sheikh (director sports), Lecturer Dr Fatima Tunio (deputy hostel provost, girls), Assistant Prof Dr Khalil Ahmed Sanghro (deputy director postgraduate studies), Assistant Prof Dr Abdul Samad Mirani (in-charge transport), Assistant Prof Dr Kamlesh Kumar (director Q-Bank), Senior Registrar Dr Abdul Ghaffar Pirzada (additional director postgraduate studies), Demonstrator/Lecturer Dr Abdul Hakeem Faisal (deputy registrar), Lecturer Dr Sarfraz Ahmed Tunio (hostel provost), Lecturer Dr Mahesh Kumar Oad (estate officer), Lecturer Ahmed Bakhsh Dahani (additional director) and Lecturer Dr Adil Ameer (assistant director sports).

All relieved faculty members have been directed to report back to their parent departments immediately.

It was learnt on Wednesday that the university, following these changes, is considering the formation of committees to oversee various administrative affairs.

Karachi streets remain unsafe for citizens in 2025

Continued from Page 13

As with the use of this technology, the criminals are being detected and arrested, he adds.

Mr Habib suggests that the way forward for controlling crimes, despite rising unemployment and closure of factories and migration of people to Dubai or other countries, lies in utilisation of technology.

Another major step that needs to be taken pertains to improving "Thana culture", he adds.

As the use of technology has "ended" the "corruption" of traffic police through e-challan system, such technology should also be used at the police stations to end corruption of the police, he suggests.

IGP takes pride in crime reduction

Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon told *Dawn* that there is an overall reduction in crime despite significant challenges.

He says this achievement has been made "despite severe socio-economic challenges, including inflation, unemployment, urban migration, and population growth".

Regarding street crimes in Karachi, the IG says this crime has also been "contained". "Karachi is witnessing a stabilisation and gradual containment and reduction in street crime in 2025, preventing escalation despite economic stress and population growth," says the top cop of Sindh.

"The daily average street crimes has declined from 1.36 per day in the year 2024 to 1.04 per day in the year 2025." He says "violent robberies" have also been kept under check.

"The incidents of robbery with murder and injury have remained contained and closely monitored, with 70 fatalities and 290 injuries recorded during the year 2025 as compared to 99 fatalities and 400 injuries during the year 2024."

The IGP cites a host of steps behind the reduction in street crimes. He says that the police are focused on operations against armed gangs and habitual offenders, which has helped prevent "a wider spike in violent crime". Besides, targeted and intelligence-led policing has also been initiated, he adds.

He says that the police have emphasised data-driven deployments, snap checking, weapons recovery, and repeat offender tackling, which have delivered "tangible results in high-crime corridors".

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Mother

Zareena Sayeed

(Oct 11, 1930 - Jan 1st, 2021

The sparkle of our true North still shines brightly as we navigate through life with her light shining brightly beckoning and guiding us being our Compass amidst the challenges of our complex and beautiful universe forever in our hearts

Miss you so much Mama

Family

- Mahjabeen and Mahin Khan
- Nazneen and Zahid Rahim
- Lubna and Nasir Quereshi
- Fatima and Yawar Fadoo
- Grand Children and Great Grand Children

Kindly recite Surah Fateha for the departed soul

بسم اللہ الرحمٰن الرحیم

OBITUARY

We sadly announce the death of our beloved

FARIDA KIDWAI

D/O (Late) Mr & Mrs. M.I.Kidwai and wife of Mr. Jalal Z. Kidwai

on December 29, 2025.

Will greatly appreciate the dear and near ones to pray for her Maghfirat and a high place in Jannah.

Mrs. Noor Kidwai & Pervez Ahmed (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
Mrs. Muna Kidwai & Dr. Masroor Ahmed (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)
Mr. Faisal Zaheer Kidwai (SON)
Mrs. Shama Ahmed & Mr. Naseer Ahmed (SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW)

انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

MIR JAWAD AFSAR TALPUR

who returned to his Creator on 30th December 2025. May Allah (SWT) elevate his ranks and grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and envelop him in His infinite mercy. Ameen.

NAMAZ-E-JANAZA

Masjid-e-Ayesha, Main Khayaban-e-Ittehad, DHA Phase 6, 1:30 PM (after Zuhr) Thursday, 01-01-2026

BURIAL

DHA Phase-8 Graveyard

SOYEM

Saturday, 03-01-2026, between Asr & Maghrib, Talpur House, 111/1, 8th Lane, Khayaban-e-Rahat, DHA Phase 7, Karachi.

CONDOLENCES

Mir Afsar Din Talpur (Former Chairman, Port Qasim Authority) 0300-8238106
Mir Ayan Jawad Talpur 0313-3919929